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February 15, 1962 - Thursday

The Jordanian Ambassador, Anastas Hanania, visited me this morning. He was once Secretary for Refugees in his Government's Cabinet. He entertains little hope of the situation in respect to the Palestinian refugees improving as long as the relationship between Israel and the Arab States remains unsatisfactory. He spoke of the difficulties in his own country, where a new Cabinet composed of much younger men than is customary has just been appointed. He said that Jordan was disliked by all its neighbors, but I could not gather from him the explanation of why this was so, except it seemed to be tied up with the refugee problem.

He thought highly of the Kuwait Government's development plan. Jordan expects to benefit from it and use some of the loans to advance its own long-range development.

General Charles D. Palmer, whom I had known in Germany, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, U. S. European Command, since September 1959, came to see me. He will be 60 years old next week, and therefore must retire. He had a brilliant combat record during the war in Europe, and afterwards in the East.

I lunched at a pub on Charing Cross Road, in order to look at some prints and books in the vicinity.

I talked to Hugh Gaitskell last night and again today. He is leaving for the United States tomorrow, to deliver some lectures, as well as to attend a conference in Bermuda. He wishes to see Secretary MacNamara, whom he has never met, and also, on George Brown's recommendation, would like to talk to General Lemnitzer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I have telegraphed Secretary Rusk, to urge him to arrange this.

Hugh is taking Denis Healey with him.

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